


Wabash Plain Dealer

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MAY 9-10, 2020

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Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather

53 | 39



Pulse
of Wabash

Attention

Class of 2020

The Wabash Plain Dealer is launching an interactive campaign to celebrate our Wabash County seniors! With COVID-19 disrupting graduation plans and daily life for our students, we want to do something special to commemorate their hard work and memories. We are posting photo challenges at www.facebook.com/wabashpd and the best submissions will be featured on our website and in a special section published at the end of the school year. Submit your favorite memories to news@wabashplaindealer.com or post your memories and photos to your social media page using the hashtag #WCClassof2020 to participate.

Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be dropped in the mail slot or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email news@wabashplaindealer.com. For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email tcampbell@pmginmi.com. For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. To bring you the most accurate information about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Wabash Plain Dealer has decided to prioritize news content over sports stories since sporting events are canceled for the time being. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. Thank you.

Holcomb announces stages of reopening plan

Hoosiers 65 and over and those with high-risk health conditions – who are the most vulnerable to the coronavirus – should remain at home. Essential travel restrictions are lifted, and social gatherings of up to 25 people are permitted following the CDC's social distancing guidelines. The remaining manufacturers, industrial and other infrastructure operations that had not been considered essential may open. Hoosiers who can work from home are encouraged to continue to do so. Retail and commercial businesses may open at 50 percent capacity. Examples include apparel, furniture, jewelry and liquor stores that have been operating as

See **PULSE**, page A3

Inside

Classified, A6 Obituaries, A3
Comics, A4 Community, A5
Crossword, A Weather, A2



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Local manufacturing sector hit hard

Record unemployment reflects massive job losses in the major economic driver

By **ROB BURGESS**

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 20.5 million in April, and the unemployment rate rose to 14.7 percent.

"The changes in these measures reflect the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Employment fell sharply in all major industry sectors, with heavy job losses in leisure and hospitality," stated the BLS.

In a statement to the Plain Dealer on Friday, Rachel Blakeman, director of the Community Research Institute at Purdue University Fort Wayne, stated this March's data was collected the week before the shutdowns started.

"What the Purdue Fort Wayne Community Research Institute and Northeast Indiana Works have been using with our weekly updates have reflected unemployment insurance claims. The two have different methodologies," stated Blakeman.

The April state unemployment rate numbers are expected to come out May 22 and the local (county, MSA and select cities) will be released May 26, both from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

"With the local reliance on manufacturing as an employment center and wage driver, seeing the effects of the national trends on specific industries is key to anticipate the state and local data in the weeks to come," stated Blakeman.

Local impact

In a Tuesday statement to the Plain Dealer, Blakeman stated Allen County's initial unem-

ployment insurance claims for the first 16 weeks of 2020 now exceed the total for 2008 and are on pace to exceed 2009's claims.

Residents of the third-largest Indiana county by population have made 32,161 claims this year with 30,010 coming from the first five weeks of pandemic-closure data released by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Allen County had 31,955 first-time unemployment claims in 2008 and 34,757 in 2009, according to calculations by the Purdue University Fort Wayne Community Research Institute. It took more than 50 weeks in 2008 to reach the number of claims

from the five-week period of coronavirus-related data analyzed here. One difference between 2008 and 2009 data and today is that independent contractors can make a claim under changes to unemployment rules that were not in effect for the Great Recession.

On a regional scale for Economic Growth Region 3, consisting of Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley counties, 61,607 people have made initial unemployment claims for the weeks ending March 21 through April 18 with Allen County's claims

See **IMPACT**, page A2

Covering those who keep others covered

Grow Wabash County to award \$5K Duke Energy grant to two local businesses

By **ROB BURGESS**

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Grow Wabash County has received \$5,000 in grant funding from Duke Energy's Economic Development Relief Grant program, according to Chelsea Boulrisse, project manager for marketing and events.

"The \$5,000 grant will be administered by Grow Wabash County to two Wabash County businesses that have gone above and beyond during this pandemic to serve their community despite financial challenges," stated Boulrisse. "The grant funds will allow for both of these businesses to pay for expenses incurred due to COVID-19 and its resulting restrictions such as operating costs (payroll, debt relief, etc.), assistance in navigating state and federal programs and/or technology needs to remain connected with their clients, customers and community at large."

"Duke Energy and the Duke Energy Foundation continue to be fantastic partners for Grow Wabash County and our entire community," stated Keith Gillenwater, president and CEO of Grow Wabash County. "Providing these funds to allow us to honor two businesses who have been both uniquely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic but have gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide services to the community in a time of need is what being an 'essential' business is all about in every sense of the word. We are thrilled to award these grants to Webb's Pharmacy and Cannonball Lanes."

Cannonball Lanes

In Wabash, the grant will be awarded to Cannonball Lanes, 527 Cass St., in recognition of owner Cindy Solloway's efforts to make and donate face masks.

"Despite having sewn very little before the pandemic, Solloway felt as though making masks would be a great way to serve her community during this challenging time. So, she brought out the sewing machine and taught herself how to make the masks," stated Boulrisse. "Solloway's project grew quickly and soon, she became one of



Provided photo

Starting Monday, May 11, Webb's Family Pharmacy North Manchester location will provide any area resident with their choice of 10 surgical masks and one 5-ounce hand sanitizer, or two KN-95 masks and one 5-ounce hand sanitizer.

the leaders of the 'Wabash Strong' Facebook group that has made and donated dozens of masks to essential employees in Wabash County."

In response to a Plain Dealer request Tuesday, Solloway stated they were thinking of using the grant funding for

employee payroll and mortgage payment.

Webb's Family Pharmacy

Webb's Family Pharmacy, 103 N.

See **GRANT**, page A2

Myers announces choice for lieutenant governor candidate

Presumptive Democratic nominee selects former Rep. Linda Lawson to share ticket

STAFF REPORT

Indiana's presumptive Democratic nominee for governor, Dr. Woody Myers, announced former State Rep. Linda Lawson, who served Northwest Indiana in the legislature for 20 years, is his running mate, according to a press release Friday.

Myers is set to face incumbent Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb in the general election.

"Choosing a lieutenant governor is a critical task and I did not take it lightly," stated Myers. "I talked to a lot of people over months to find the right fit. Linda brings not only legislative experience and leadership, but also she has broken the glass ceiling numerous times. Linda is an example to all Hoosiers of what can be accomplished with hard



MYERS



LAWSON

See **MYERS**, page A3

'We want them to know, they're not alone'

Family speaks out after 17-year-old son dies by suicide

By **MATT DEYOUNG**

Grand Haven Tribune



YONKER

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. — Pierce Yonker had so much going for him.

The 17-year-old from Grand Haven was living the dream as a student at the American Snowboard Training Center in Vermont. He was living alongside a dozen other young men who, like him, had an absolute passion for snowboarding.

Humble but fiercely competitive, Pierce was

ranked second in the United States in his age group in Slopestyle snowboarding, and was looking forward to the national competition over spring break as his opportunity to take over the No. 1 spot.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. It was the day of the Vermont Open. Pierce and his fellow competitors had arrived at the mountain, checked in, received their bibs and completed their practice runs, when word came down

See **YONKER**, page A5

Wabash Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch open by appointment only

State announces an additional 73 branches available for pre-arranged services

STAFF REPORT

The Wabash branch of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is open by appointment only between Monday and Saturday at 1679 N. Cass St.

On Friday, the Indiana BMV announced an additional 73 branches will open by appointment only on Monday, May 11, according to a press release.

This brings the total number of branches open by appointment to 128.

Customers are now able to schedule an appointment for transactions that are not available online at all of these locations. BMV Connect kiosks located at branches opening by appointment only will also be available.

"The BMV continues to operate with modifications to ensure the safety of its employees and customers," stated the release.

As a reminder, all branches are operating from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Saturday. All customers are required to have an appointment and those appointments are limited to the following transactions:

- Knowledge Testing
- Commercial Driver License
- New Driver License/Learner Permit or Identification Card
- Amend a Current Driver License/Learner Permit or Identification Card
- Replacement Driver License/Learner Permit or Identification Card
- Title Transfer

See **BMV**, page A2

BMV

From page A1

- Update to an Existing Title
 - New Registration
 - Disability Placard
- “Driving skills exams are not available from the BMV

at this time,” stated the re-lease. “Administrative Pen-alty Fees (late fees) are still waived as outlined in Execu-tive Order 20-05. Effective-ly, this extends expiration dates of registrations, driv-er’s licenses, and identifica-tion cards without changing the expiration date printed

on documents in an individ-ual’s possession and tempo-rarily waives late fees during a future renewal. This same executive order also extends the deadline required to pro-cess a title transfer.

For more information, call 888-692-6841 or visit <https://www.in.gov/bmv/4363.htm>.

GRANT

From page A1

Heeter St., North Manches-ter, will also receive a grant for its innovative actions to fill community needs throughout the pandemic.

“Not only has the com-pounding pharmacy provid-ed access to necessary med-ications and prescriptions to its customers, but it has also become a source for critically needed personal protective equipment (PPE). Owner Harry Webb and store manager, Yi Yang, were able to successfully coordinate with Chinese PPE producers to increase local access to PPE,” stated Boulrisse. “The compounding pharmacy has also been making its hand sanitizer to sell during the

pandemic when quality an-tibacterial products like this have become hard to find. Webb advised Grow Wabash County that he intends to use the grant funds from Duke Energy to purchase more ma-terials to make hand sanitizer as well as purchase more PPE so that he can donate both to essential businesses and em-ployees that need it.”

In a Wednesday post on their Facebook page, Webb’s Family Pharmacy stated they encourage “everyone to wear a face mask when out in public.”

“We want to help every-one stay safe. To help those in need, Duke Energy has provided us a grant to help provide a limited amount of masks and hand sanitizer to our community,” stated the post. Starting Monday, May

11, Webb’s Family Pharma-cy North Manchester loca-tion will provide any area resident with their choice of 10 surgical masks and one 5-ounce hand sanitizer, or two KN-95 masks and one 5-ounce hand sanitiz-er. This will be free – one per household. Please pick up at our North Manchester location drive-thru. We will accept free-will donations to help fund additional masks and sanitizers for our com-munity. Additional masks and sanitizer are available for purchase. Thank you Grow Wabash County and Duke Energy for your help in keeping our community safe.”

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Deal-er editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

IMPACT

From page A1

making up 48.7 percent of the regional total.

The number of claims con-tinues to slow. The week end-ing April 18 had 7,145 claims for the northeast Indiana region, compared to 12,183 the week before. It peaked at 21,234 for the week ending March 28.

Wabash County filings

In response to a Plain Dealer request April 28, Rick Farrant, director of communications for Northeast Indiana Works, manufacturing continues to lead initial unemployment fil-ings in Wabash County.

The following are the total initial unemployment filings for Wabash County for the weeks ending:

- March 21: 211.
- March 28: 512.
- April 4: 287.

- April 11: 326.
- Total: 1,336.

The following are the total initial manufacturing unem-ployment filings for Wabash County for the weeks ending:

- March 21: 48.
- March 28: 403.
- April 4: 138.
- April 11: 91.
- Total: 680.

“You can see that initial un-employment filings related to manufacturing represent 51 percent of all Wabash County filings in the first four weeks of the COVID-19 impact,” stated Farrant.

Looking to the future

Farrant stated it was too soon to tell how many manufactur-ing jobs will return once the economy begins to reopen.

“It will depend on a lot of factors, including the impact of social distancing on cus-tomer-facing businesses, how many businesses were able to weather the downturn and,

in the case of manufacturing, what supply and demand looks like in the new econo-my,” stated Farrant.

Farrant stated automating away manufacturing jobs as markets come back online was a persistent topic of con-versation.

“It’s unclear at this point if the trend toward automation will lead to job elimination in the near-term as a result of the pandemic, but the long-term safeguard for workers in manufacturing remains the same – seek out training so you can skill up to positions that are less likely to be affect-ed by automation. It would also be wise to choose skills that are transferrable to other industries. The machines that replace people still need to be built, programmed, installed, operated and maintained,” stated Farrant.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Wabash Plain Dealer

Community Marketing Grant

We are deeply committed to the community

The Wabash Plain Dealer has established a \$150,000 fund to help local business get back to full strength by subsidizing their marketing through matching grants. Area businesses can now apply for a grant to help them recover from the effects of the coronavirus crisis.

How Will It Work for My Business?

The fund is open to all locally owned and operated businesses impacted by the coronavirus, whether or not they are current advertisers. Grant money can be used for local Wabash Plain Dealer print newspaper and special product advertising between April 28 and June 30, 2020. Grants are available for a minimum of \$200 and a maximum of \$5,000 of matching funds each month. Eg: spend \$200 in advertising, we match with a grant of \$200 additional advertising dollars to equal \$400.

How Do I Apply?

To apply for a dollar for dollar matching advertising grant, applications must be submitted at: https://www.wabashplaindealer.com/site/forms/advertising_match/, click on the “How Do I?” tab and Apply for a “Matching Advertising Grant”. The Wabash Plain Dealer will respond within 48 hours. A community newspaper is only ever as strong as the community it serves. We know businesses and workers are hurting, we’re hurting too. But if we can pull together as a community, we can weather this.

Wabash Plain Dealer

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

5-Day Weather Summary

Saturday

Sunny

55 / 43

Sunday

Few Showers

53 / 39

Monday

Chance Showers

49 / 41

Tuesday

Mostly Cloudy

56 / 44

Wednesday

Few Showers

58 / 51

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 8:53 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 6:35 a.m.

Last 5/14

New 5/22

First 5/29

Full 6/5

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see sunny skies with a high temperature of 55°, humidity of 29%. West wind 5 to 13 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 43°. Southwest wind 5 to 11 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 38°.

Reader needing surgery questions scheduling

DEAR HARRIETTE: I was scheduled to have surgery to repair a hernia when the COVID-19 virus broke out. Every elective surgery was canceled, including mine. I was going to have this sur-gery because where the her-nia is feels uncomfortable, and the doctor recommend-ed it. This isn’t like a boob job or something – not to put anybody down for what they do. But this seemed es-sential for me. In my town, they are now allow-ing elective surgeries. I need to have this hernia repaired, but I am wor-ried about going into a hos-pital with COVID-19 pos-sibly lurking. How do you know when it’s safe to go? – Elective Surgery

DEAR ELECTIVE SURGERY: Talk to your doctor. Ex-press all of your concerns, and find out what his or her recommendation is under the circumstances. Also, do your own research. Find out if the facility where you will have the procedure has seen cases of COVID-19. If so, are there still coronavi-rus patients?

Know that elective sur-gery is the way that doctors make money, so they are likely eager to reopen their practices and offer as many elective surgeries as they can safely handle. With that in mind, you will need to weigh the risk versus the need. Ask your doctor how long you can safely put off this surgery. It could be that there is little risk if you delay it for a few months. On the flip side, if you do it soon, your recovery time won’t be a problem for work since you have to stay home anyway.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I ha-ven’t gotten my stimulus check from the government for COVID-19 relief yet. I started asking around to see if any of my friends had gotten theirs yet, only to get embarrassed. Most of them blew me off, saying they make too much money to be eligible. I have a good life and all, but I don’t

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



make a lot of money. That never seemed to be an issue within my friend group, but this simple question put me in an awkward situation. Now my friends know that I am broke. I feel embar-rassed in a way that I nev-er did before. At the same time, I need that check. How should I handle this? – Embarrassed

DEAR EMBARRASSED: While many Americans have received their stimulus pay-ments, there are still millions of people who are waiting. You can go to the IRS web-site to find out your status at irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment. Be aware that while it seems simple, the website is automated, so you can’t ask questions. If you are unsuccessful in figuring it out, you can write to your member of Congress to ask

for assistance.

As far as your friends go, chances are, you are more embarrassed than they were. Your reality of needing that money made you hypersen-sitive to the differences be-tween you and your friends. It is likely that they haven’t given it a second thought. Stop worrying about what they think about you, and focus instead on taking care of yourself. If these people are true friends, they aren’t going anywhere just be-cause they learned that you need some cash.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyleist and founder of DREAMLEAP-ERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to ask harriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

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■ Missed your paper? We sincerely hope not, but if you did please contact your local post office. To verify that your

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260-563-2131 (after hours, press 5 for advertising)

■ Classified: classifieds@wabashplaindealer.com

■ Legals: legals@wabashplaindealer.com

■ Retail: cbrown@wabashplaindealer.com

Newsroom

■ Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday:
8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Walk-in hours are from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday-Sunday:
Hours vary

■ Call: 260-563-2131

■ Email: news@wabashplaindealer.com

(Please call in advance of your visit.)

READERS' CHOICE REPORTS

THURSDAY'S LOTTERIES

Cash 5
08-25-26-38-40
Estimated jackpot: \$264,500
Cash4Life
28-31-40-52-54, Cash Ball: 3
Daily Three-Midday
9-6-3, SB: 8
Daily Three-Evening
5-5-7, SB: 3
Daily Four-Midday
7-7-2-3, SB: 8
Daily Four-Evening
8-4-6-9, SB: 3
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$231 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$68 million

FRIDAY'S METALS

Aluminum......65
Copper.....2.36
Lead......73
Zinc......88
Gold.....1,715.56
Silver.....15.55
Platinum.....772.38

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices Fri-day at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$3.13. Soy-beans: \$8.46.

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Obituaries

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Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash • 260-563-0421
www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

Emma J. Helton Slone

Oct. 23, 1936 – May 7, 2020

Emma J. Helton Slone, 83, Claypool, Indiana, passed away May 7, 2020. She was born Oct. 23, 1936 to John and Myrtle (Hale) Helton.

Emma is survived by her step-son, Joe Slone; step-daughters, Linda Needler and Shelly Dryer; brother Don (Janet) Helton; and countless nieces and nephews. Emma is preceded

in death by her parents; hus-band Cornelius Slone; brothers, Carl “Dude”, James Willard, John H., Fred, and Ellis Helton; sisters, Thelma Hicks, Irene Phillips, and Elsie Dotson.

A graveside service will be held Monday, May 11, 2020 at 1 p.m. at Lakeview Cemetery, Myrtle Glen Drive, Silver Lake, Indiana.

Laura Florence ‘Sis’ Rife

Private graveside services and burial for Laura Florence “Sis” Rife, 81, of Wabash, Indiana, were 2 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2020, at Memorial Lawns Cemetery,

Wabash. Pastor Tim Prater officiated. Pallbearers were Jamie Rife, Logan Rife, Mark Rife, Blayne Hamilton, Kirk Hamilton, and Will Runyon.

MYERS

From page A1

work and determination. Indiana needs her intelligence and grit now more than ever and I’m honored she has agreed to be my partner on the ticket.”

Lawson was the first woman to ever lead a caucus in the Indiana House when she was chosen as Minority Leader in 2012.

“She also overcame barriers by becoming the first female police officer on the Hammond Police Department and rising to the rank of captain after a long career serving as a patrol officer and member of the sex crimes and domestic

violence units,” stated the release.

Lawson moved to Brown County after retiring from the legislature and the police department and has been active in politics there.

“I was happy in the gorgeous southern Indiana countryside and keeping my hand in politics. But, I knew I still had a lot more to do for the people of Indiana,” stated Lawson. “When Woody approached me, I was intrigued by the thought of helping Indiana recover from the coronavirus and its economic fallout. I spent several terms on the employment committee in the legislature and know that there will be important issues to deal with over the

next few years as a result of the pandemic. The more we talked, the more I realized this was the right thing for me to do.”

Myers stated he and Lawson “share the same desire to reach across party lines to get things done.”

Myers served as the Indiana State Health Commissioner under Republican Governor Bob Orr and Democratic Governor Evan Bayh. Lawson also worked closely with Senate Republicans to craft dozens of criminal justice and courts laws, while she chaired the House Judiciary Committee.

“The two agree that it’s more important to fight for people than to fight about

politics,” stated the release. “Lawson is also a staunch supporter of Indiana public schools and served on the Hammond School Board for 12 years. Linda’s addition to the ticket ensures Hoosiers that with Myers-Lawson they will have a physician, successful business owner, legislative leader and law enforcer to lead Indiana in whatever crisis comes next. Hoosiers couldn’t ask for a better combined resume from two highly accomplished professionals.”

Her selection will be affirmed by delegates at the Indiana Democratic Party State Convention which will be held virtually June 13.

PULSE

From page A1

curbside or delivery only. Shopping malls can open at 50 percent capacity with indoor common areas restricted to 25 percent capacity. Restaurants and bars that serve food may open starting Monday, May 11 at 50 percent capacity, but bar seating will remain closed. Personal services such as hair salons, barbershops, nail salons, spas and tattoo parlors also may open Monday, May 11 by appointment only and must follow social distancing guidelines. Starting Friday, May 8, for all of the state’s counties, indoor worship services may also convene, following specific social distancing guidelines – while those 65 and older and those at elevated risk will be asked to stay home. For more information, visit BackOnTrack.in.gov.

ISDH offering drive-thru testing clinics across the state

All testing sites will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday, May 9. Locations include Jefferson High School, 1801 S. 18th St., Lafayette; First Baptist Church, 709 S. Memorial Drive, New Castle; Plymouth High School, #1 Big Red Drive, Plymouth; and Seymour High School, 1350 W. Second St., Seymour.

Red Cross schedules blood donation opportunity for May 13

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 13 at Richvalley Community Center, 56 W. Mill St.

Farmers market season set to begin May 16

The Downtown Wabash Farmers Market opens from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16 at the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elk’s Parking Lot. The market occurs every Saturday through Sept. 26. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or volunteering at the event, call 260-563-0975 or visit www.wabashmarketplace.org.

Red Cross schedules blood donation opportunity for May 19

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 19 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

Online absentee ballot applications must be completed, received by May 21

Any registered voter may request an absentee ballot for the June 2 Primary Election. To vote absentee-by-mail, voters who qualify must complete an absentee-by-mail application.

These are available online at www.IndianaVoters.com. Voters may also submit their request by mail, email or fax. The application must be completed and received by the county election board or the Indiana Election Division by May 21. After an application has been received, the voter will be mailed a Primary Election ballot. The voter must then complete the ballot, and return it to the county election board by noon Election Day, June 2.

Local absentee, early, in-person voting details announced

Any registered voter may vote by absentee for the June 2 primary election by requesting an absentee ballot. To request an absentee-by-mail application, call 260-563-0661 ext. 1238. In-person early voting is available beginning Tuesday, May 26. Wabash County voters may vote at OJ Neighbors school gymnasium, 1545 N Wabash St. Early voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 26 through Friday, May 29, and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, May 30. Voting will also take place at this location from 8 a.m. to noon Monday, June 1. On June 2, Election Day, the only two places open to vote in Wabash County will be O J Neighbors School gymnasium at 1545 N Wabash St., and North Manchester High School gymnasium, 1 Squire Drive, North Manchester.

Mural festival seeks local artists

Make It Your Own Mural Fest, organized by the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership and Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, is asking artists to apply for the Artist and Mentorship Programs as part of the 11-day mural festival scheduled for Sept. 8 to 18. Make It Your Own Mural Fest is also searching for volunteers for the Mentorship Program. Applications are available at www.NElmuralfestival.com and are open through the end of May.

Red Cross schedules blood donation opportunity for June 2

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 2 at the Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St.

25th annual WACCY golf outing prepares to tee off

Registration is now open for Grow Wabash County’s 25th Annual WACCY Golf Outing, scheduled for Wednesday, June 3 at the Honeywell Public Golf Course. Grow Wabash County has also scheduled a back-up date of Thursday, July 30 in the case that the social distancing recommendations are still in effect come June. Registration is \$360 per four-person team. For more information, visit www.grow-wabashcounty.com/events,

email marketing@growwabashcounty.com or call 260-563-5258.

Wabash Kiwanis Club Pancake Day officially rescheduled

The Wabash Kiwanis Club’s annual Pancake Day has been rescheduled to Saturday, June 6 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds. The event’s Pancake Eating Contest will take place at noon. Pancakes, with or without blueberries, will be available, along with sausages and refreshments. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for adults 13 and older and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 and younger. Sponsorship opportunities for businesses are available by emailing Kiwanian Donna Siders at donnasiders@hotmail.com or calling 260-571-1892. For more information, email keaffa.berm@msdwc.k12.in.us.

Red Cross schedules blood donation opportunity for June 6

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 6 at Scotty’s Bar, 780 Manchester Ave.

Dia De Lagro rescheduled due to COVID-19 concerns

Dia De Lagro, which was originally set for Tuesday, May 5, has been rescheduled to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 13 at Eads Barn, 4725 E. 200 North, Urbana. Comedian and Wabash County celebrity, Michael Palascak, is set to bring laughter to Lagro as the headliner of the event, which will benefit the revitalization of downtown Lagro. Appetizers, cocktails, singer Kimberly Rutledge and Emcee Reed Christiansen are set to begin at 5:30 p.m. A Mexican-themed dinner, catered by Gallery 64, will begin at 6 p.m. with Palascak taking the stage at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$75 each, \$125 per couple or \$500 for a table of eight. For more information, visit lagrocanalfoundation.com. Those interested in donating prizes for the silent auction or would like to become a main sponsor may email lagrocanalfoundation@gmail.com. For more information, email aeads4725@gmail.com or call 260-571-2428.

Woman’s Clubhouse hopes to pick up 2020-2021 schedule in August

Out of an abundance of caution, the Woman’s Clubhouse will not meet for its final luncheon of the 2019-2020 season in June. The group will send the 2020-2021 program and luncheon schedule in August for the new year and they will vote on officers for

the new calendar year in September. Anyone who would like to nominate someone for an office should call Ellen Stouffer at 260-571-5339. The group needs a volunteer to take over membership organization. For more information, call Carol McDonald at 260-563-2331.

Registration for annual Dam to Dam Century Ride and new triathlon now open

Visit Wabash County has announced registration for the Dam to Dam Century Ride and the DAM(N)IMAN! triathlon is now open. DIM! will take place on the same day as the Dam to Dam Century Ride – Sunday, Sept. 13 – and will incorporate the newest and longest 150-mile bike route, plus a 3.1-mile swim and will end with a 31-mile run. The early bird registration fee for the bike ride is \$40 through May 31, however, attendees can use promo code D2DSAVE10 to save \$10 for a limited time. The price increases to \$50 beginning June 1. The registration fee for the triathlon is \$135, however, participants can use promo code DMSAVE40 to save \$40 for a limited time. For more information, visit www.visitwabashcounty.com/adventure-series or call 260-563-7171.

Indiana 105 bridge at Salamonie Lake closed

Salamonie Lost Bridge West and East state recreation areas are accessible only from the south. To access Indiana 105 on the north side of the bridge, from the south of the bridge heading north on Indiana 105, the official detour will be Indiana 124 to Indiana 9 to Highway 24. The entire bridge deck will be removed and replaced. The bridge, and road, is scheduled to re-open Sunday, Nov. 15.

Closings announced due to COVID-19 concerns

■ Access Youth Center: All scheduled after school and weekend programming is canceled until further notice.

■ BMV: The phone number is 888-692-6841 and the lines are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, visit <https://www.in.gov/bmv/4363.htm>.

■ Community Foundation of Wabash County: Individuals with questions may email patty@cfwabash.org or julie@cfwabash.org, or call 260-982-4824.

■ Division of Family Resources: Offices closed until further notice. Visit the FSSA benefits portal at www.fssabenefits.in.gov. DFR staff is available by phone at 800-403-0864 to provide customer service from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Clients may also continue to send documents to DFR via mail at P.O.

Box 1810, Marion, IN 46952.

■ Farm Service Agency: County offices are open in Indiana by phone appointment only until further notice, and staff is available to continue helping agricultural producers with program signups, loan servicing and other important actions. Call 260-563-7486.

■ Honeywell Foundation: All events at foundation properties including the Honeywell Center, Honeywell House, Eagles Theatre, Dr. James Ford Historic Home and Charley Creek Gardens are suspended until further notice.

■ Living Well in Wabash County: The Community Cupboard pantry will operate as a drive-through with regular pantry hours, which are from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays; and open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. Senior lunches at Winchester Senior Center will be operated as a drive-through at the front door of the senior center from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch reservations continue to require 48 business hours of reservations. Seniors age 60 and older wanting a lunch must call Winchester Senior Center at 260-563-4475.

■ North Manchester Public Library: Library patrons may place material requests online on the library website by visiting www.nman.lib.in.us or by calling 260-982-4773. The first pick up day will be Monday, May 11 from noon to 4 p.m. The library will loan out books, DVDs, laptops, WiFi hotspots and iPads to all card-holding patrons. Patrons will be limited to 10 items per car. Due dates and fines are as follows: Books: Three-week check out, no late fees; DVDs: Three days for new DVDs (with yellow tape), one week for old DVDs (without yellow tape) and a \$5 late fee per day, per item; WiFi Hotspots: One-week check-out and a \$5 late fee per day; and Laptops and iPads: 24-hour check out, \$25 late fee per day. Pick Up days will from noon to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Any requested items will be available for pick up on the next pick up day.

■ The North Manchester Center for History: Temporarily closed to the public. The Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibit is available through video on the NHCH Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NorthManchesterHistory.

■ Roann Paw Paw Township Public Library: Curbside pickup began Monday, May 4.

■ Wabash Carnegie Public Library: WCPL patrons may request print or audiobooks by phone or online. Orders can be picked up at the Hill Street entrance of the library. Curbside service will be available from noon to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Orders will be labeled in bags and left on a table in front of the library at a scheduled time. Any orders not

delivered by 4 p.m. on the assigned day will be canceled and the items will be re-shelved. For more information, call 260-563-2972.

■ Wabash City Hall: The public will be restricted from entering the building unless they have a pre-arranged appointment and they must wear a face mask when they come into the building. Employees must wear a mask when interacting with the public also. Employees must maintain social distancing while at work and take all safety precautions for sanitation. Citizens should visit www.cityofwabash.com to pay bills for wastewater, ambulance billing and building department permits. City court offers pay by phone services. Questions regarding COVID-19 can also be directed to the new email address at covid19info@cityofwabash.com. Anyone with questions should call 260-274-1485 or email mayor@cityofwabash.com.

■ Wabash Circuit and Superior Courts and Court Services (Probation and Community Corrections divisions): Closed to the public Wednesdays and Fridays.

■ Wabash County Courthouse and Wabash County Health Department: Payments and other documents for these offices may be placed in a large locked box located just inside the west basement door of the courthouse. For more information, visit www.wabashcounty.in.gov or call the Courthouse at 260-563-0661 ext. 1222.

■ Wabash County Judicial Center: A drop box is located outside, near the top of the stairs, for depositing payments and documents. The Wabash County Elections office may be reached at 260-563-0661 ext. 1238, Wabash County Circuit Court at 260-563-0661 ext. 1241, Wabash County Superior Court at 260-563-0661 ext. 1254, Wabash County Court Services at 260-563-8466 ext. 1276, Judicial Annex Court Security: 260-563-0661 ext. 1261 and Wabash County Clerk of the Courts: 260-563-0661 ext. 1239.

■ Wabash County Museum: Temporarily closed until further notice.

■ Wabash County Solid Waste Management District: Offices and warehouse closed to the public until further notice. 24/7 drop sites at 1101 Manchester Ave. and at the Hardware in North Manchester will remain open for regular recycling. For more information, call 260-563-7649.

■ Woman’s Clubhouse: Closed until further notice.

■ WorkOne: Closed until further notice. Contact staff by phone at the Wabash location at 260-563-8421.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Insensitive question leaves grieving mother speechless

DEAR ABBY: My daughter unexpectedly died very recently. A “friend” called to-day asking how I was doing (quarantine, food, pet food, etc). Then she asked me the most unnerv-ing question: “Do you have ‘June’ with you?” I was flooded. So many thoughts came rushing at me at once. June was disabled since birth. She went to live in a group home nine years ago. The friend knew I brought her home for weekends.

After I didn’t speak for several minutes, she asked in an annoyed tone, “Well, did you go get her ashes or not?” (As if having her ashes with me was a comfort? It isn’t!) Abby, I didn’t know what to say. Her question slammed me against the wall. I mumbled a response, said I had to go and hung up.

I’m trying to make myself believe she meant nothing but concern, but I can’t seem to make myself believe that the words she used weren’t purposely cruel. My warm feelings for her have changed to something ugly. I’m still gasping. Your thoughts? – Grieving Mother

DEAR GRIEVING MOTHER: Let’s give the woman a perfect 10 on the insensitivity meter. She was tactless, but she may not have meant to be unkind. My thought is that you handled the situation as well as you could since her question left you understandably flat-footed. However, I would have answered her differently. I would have responded, “Why do you ask?” and let her explain herself.

DEAR ABBY: My older sister bullied me from the time our parents divorced. I was in elementary school, and she was in middle school. We are now adults and retired. Her form of bullying now is to exclude me. It started with announcing to me that I was adopted and progressed to saying in front of me, “Let’s have a family reunion” and not inviting me.

When our father died, she was his executor. She showed the will to my sisters, but would not allow me to see it. Yes, I was in the will as an equal. She told the attorney I was a granddaughter, which I caught and corrected.

When I told my oldest sister my feelings were hurt, she accused me of being jealous and blocked me on social media. It’s hard to disengage because I have no other family, but I keep busy in other social circles. I was unable to have kids, and the one child I adopted is busy working in another state, so it’s just my husband and me now.

I tried for years to be nice and to contribute as much as possible. I know I have done nothing wrong. I have searched my soul to see why I deserve this treatment. I don’t! Should I just let go of my family since at least two of my three sisters seem to want to let go of me? – Left Out In Florida

DEAR LEFT OUT: Yes, you should. Disengaging from the emotionally abusive sisters who treat you cruelly would be healthy for you. Maintain a relationship with the one who is open to it.

I have advised more than once in this column that sometimes it’s necessary to create a family of one’s own if circumstances prevent a normal relationship with a person’s birth family. You and your husband should continue branching out socially. I predict that once you move in that direction, you will be far happier than you are today.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Agreement
- 5 Stem’s end
- 9 Ewer
- 12 Stare at
- 13 Like Mr. Hyde
- 14 Mineral deposit
- 15 Bellyache
- 16 Verne
- 17 Noncom
- 18 Lion
- 20 Hearth debris
- 22 Running wild
- 23 Sault — Marie
- 24 “Nifty!” (hyph.)
- 27 Clumsy boats
- 31 Phrased
- 34 Unhearing
- 35 In — of
- 36 Bit of the universe
- 38 Annoying insect
- 40 Paramount rival
- 41 Wynter or Andrews

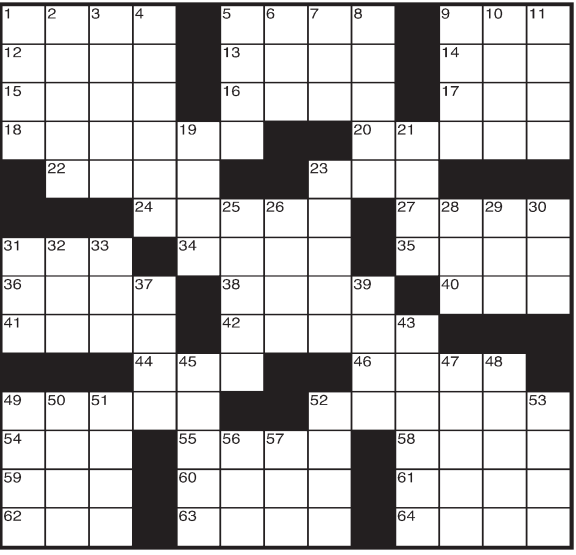
42 Campaign topic

- 44 NBC rival
- 46 “Frozen” sister
- 49 Uneven
- 52 Choir selections
- 54 Rage
- 55 Speeder’s penalty
- 58 Work like a dog
- 59 By way of
- 60 Length x width
- 61 Active volcano
- 62 Electric swimmer
- 63 Squeals on
- 64 Used a rifle

DOWN

- 1 Splendor
- 2 Old Greek market-place
- 3 Assert
- 4 Sinew
- 5 Eye part
- 6 Twilight, to a poet
- 7 Zero in on
- 8 Parade sight
- 9 Kid around with
- 10 Encourage
- 11 Catches on
- 19 Used thriftily
- 21 Tape up
- 23 Lobby furnishings
- 25 Zeus’ shield
- 26 Light browns
- 28 Brink
- 29 Party extra
- 30 I am, to Livy
- 31 Gym mat
- 32 Ms. Hagen
- 33 Cargo unit
- 37 “— the Knife”
- 39 Mon. follower
- 43 Gladdens
- 45 Without doubt (2 wds.)
- 47 Slow-moving animal
- 48 Acid in proteins
- 49 Kid around
- 50 Pennsylvania port
- 51 Bona fide
- 52 Early vegetables
- 53 Minibind part
- 56 Lyricist — Gershwin
- 57 After taxes

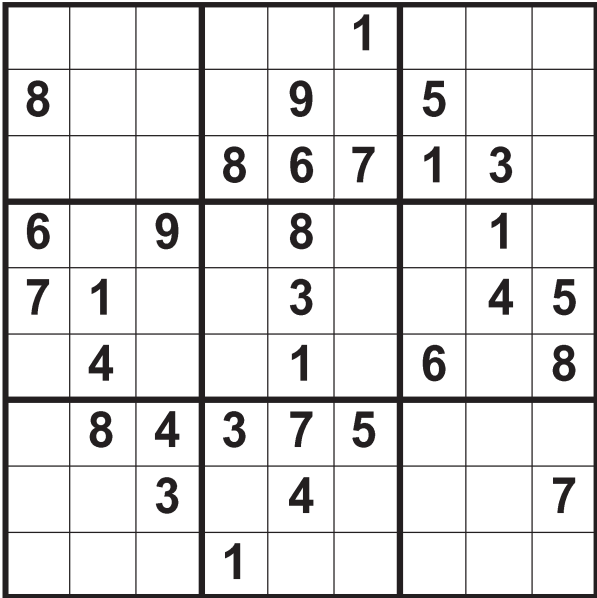
Answer to Previous Puzzle



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

5	7	1	9	3	8	6	2	4
6	3	4	5	2	1	9	8	7
8	9	2	6	4	7	1	3	5
1	8	5	2	7	4	3	6	9
7	6	9	8	5	3	4	1	2
2	4	3	1	9	6	7	5	8
4	2	6	7	1	5	8	9	3
9	1	7	3	8	2	5	4	6
3	5	8	4	6	9	2	7	1

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CORUC

AACWM

CONKUL

FLUERF

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Answer “ ”

Yesterday’s Jumbles: GRIPE SHIRT APPEAR HYBRID

Answer: When the church at the summit was voted “Fourth Best Monument” in France, it was — HIGH PRAISE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

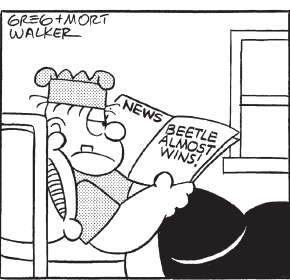
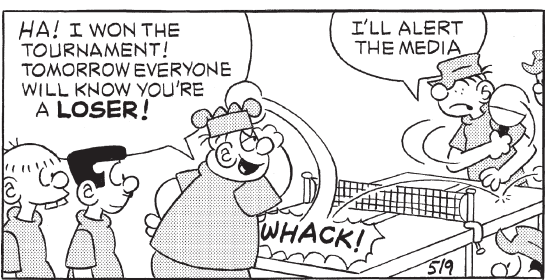
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



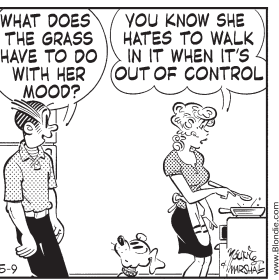
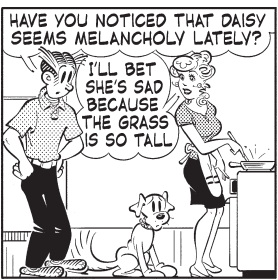
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

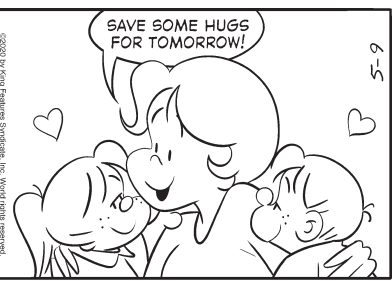
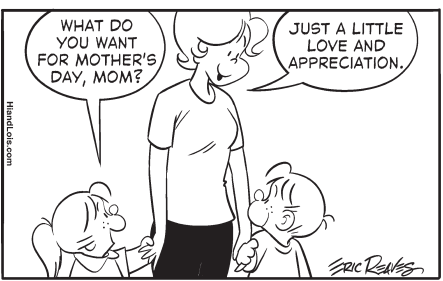
BEETLE BAILEY



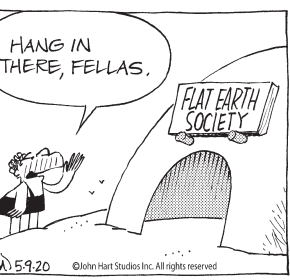
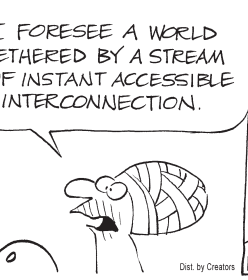
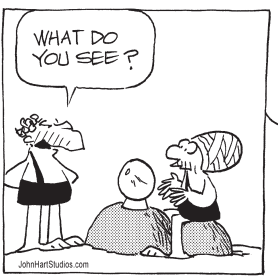
BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



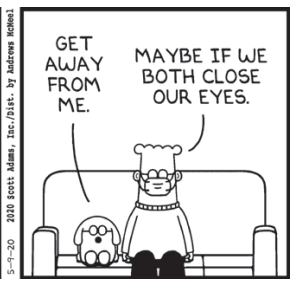
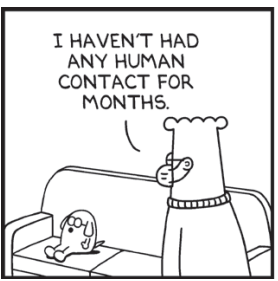
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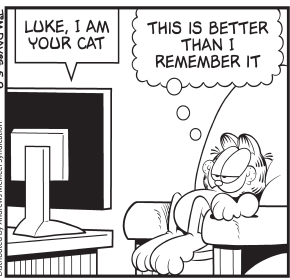
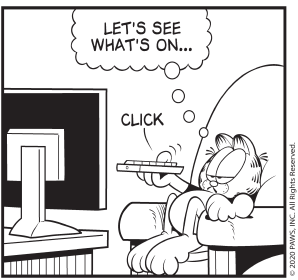
WIZARD OF ID



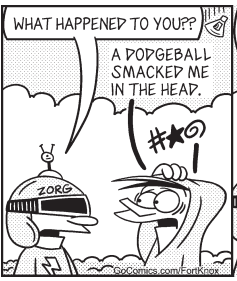
DILBERT



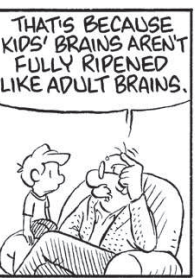
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES

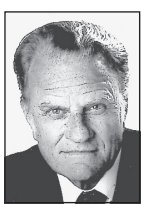


Exchange your sin for Christ’s salvation

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: America is talking about a mission to Mars. With all of the debt our nation has, with all of the problems in the world, why is it necessary to explore space? Nations seem to place greater value on this than on conquering earthly problems that haven’t been solved for centuries. — S.E.

Billy Graham My Answer



A: It was reported several years ago that it would take 100 billion dollars to get one man safely to Mars. That is a staggering amount of money. It’s interesting how people place great value on things and experiences.

But God in His outpouring of love for mankind placed the value of one human soul at an incalculable price — the blood of His only Son in order to get just one soul to

Heaven. Imagine. This priceless gift has not only saved one soul for eternity but a vast number that only God Himself knows. By tasting death for everyone, Jesus took over our penalty as He erased our guilt. This is God’s amazing forgiveness and love toward mankind. We humans cannot see or touch the soul — but God can and does because He created it. The Bible says: “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul” (Mark 8:36-37).

Even as you read this you can submit your life to Christ Jesus by admitting your sin against Him, receiving His forgiveness, and asking Him to help you walk in a way that pleases Him.

This world is on a collision course, frantic about the future. But you can be filled with assurance that Jesus is with you every step of the way and will grant you peace and eternal life. Exchange your sin for Christ’s salvation. Receive Him today and He will show you how to live a valuable life with purpose.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“K WIRV NVC DI PVHDN. . . DNV
IWPVC K BVD, DNV UICV KEKLP
UTAVWE WKG V UT UIU.” — RHLVAAH
NSPBVLA IL BKLH BSHLBXI

Previous Solution: “Looking back, we were the luckiest people in the world, there was no choice but to be pioneers.” — “Witch” Margaret Hamilton

TODAY’S CLUE: 3 5 1 2 4 6 8 9

YONKER

From page A1

that Vermont had declared a state of emergency.

In a whirlwind, Pierce was whisked off the mountain, left school and his new friends behind, and headed home to Grand Haven.

That transition would be tough for anyone, but proved especially difficult for Pierce, who had struggled with depression for several years.

His parents, Marty and Michelle Yonker, took all the steps they could to help their son, but it wasn't enough.

On Monday, April 20, Pierce told his mom he loved her as she left for work. Then he left the family's Grand Haven Township home on his skateboard. He sent a cryptic message out on social media, something to the effect of, "I hope you all have a beautiful life."

Then he took his own life. Pierce's family knows that there are so many other people, young and old, dealing with the same demons that Pierce struggled with. It's their hope that Pierce's story can help save someone else struggling with mental illness.

You're Not Alone

"He didn't realize that other people felt like he did," Michelle Yonker said Monday, two weeks after Pierce's death. "He thought everyone else was happy."

"He thought he was the only one who had problems," Marty Yonker added.

Pierce's struggles began in seventh grade, as he transitioned to Lakeshore Middle School. Pierce struggled with dyslexia, and school was often difficult for him.

He also tended to carry the burdens of his friends, taking it upon himself to help them whenever they needed someone.

"He would get a call, and be like, 'I have to go, so-and-so is having a rough day, I have to go take care of this,'" Michelle said. "I've talked to so many people, gotten so many cards from other students who said, 'he listened to me,' 'he helped me.'"

Suicide prevention resources

Crisis Text Line: 741741
Suicide Help Line: 800-273-8255
Disaster Distress Hotline
24 Hr. hotline: 800-985-5990

"He had such a big heart, he'd let everyone else's problems become his problems," Marty said. "We told him you can't fix everyone's problems. He struggled with that."

Two weeks before his death, Pierce spent some time at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services.

"He called me and said, 'Mom, there are other people who feel like I do!'" Michelle said. "He said, 'I didn't think there were other people who felt this way. We need to get the word out. We need to tell people!'"

Pierce told his parents he wanted to help others, and talked about becoming a counselor so he could help others.

"He had a great couple weeks," Michelle said. "Then he had a day that he didn't do very well."

His final day

The morning of April 20, Pierce came upstairs crying.

"He said he was sad," Michelle said. "I sat and talked with him for quite a while. I hugged him. Then I went to work. He said, 'I love you, mom.' I told him I loved him, too." Then he took off.

Pierce's brothers thought he was downstairs watching TV, so nobody realized Pierce was gone until Michelle got home from work.

"I couldn't get ahold of him," Michelle said. "Whenever I texted him, he always texted or called back right away, so I knew something was up. I called some friends, and they said, 'yeah, he did post something strange.' ... So I called the police. They looked for him all night."

The next morning, a neighbor who works for the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Frank Dobroc, realized the missing child the department was searching for was Pierce.

He contacted the family, then checked a secluded spot near the Yonkers' home, where he found Pierce.

Others are struggling as well

Normally when a student dies, the school district's crisis team is there to help students deal with the loss.

With school buildings closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that wasn't able to happen after Pierce's death, and his family is worried that many other kids are struggling with depression, isolation and fear.

"I don't know what some of these kids are going to do," Pierce's grandma, Betty Pierce, said. "The scary part is, it's going to be a long time before they have their teachers and friends around them. Kids are scared. ... I'm so worried about them."

"They don't have their friends and that's such an important base for these kids. So many kids don't have a decent home life. The only support they might get is from a teacher who smiles at them in the morning, and now they don't have that."

Grand Haven High School Principal Tracy Wilson said that in the event of a crisis situation while school is in session, she would make an announcement to the students.

"Teachers would have marching orders, if you see a kid struggling who needs support, they're to be escorted to our student services, where we triage kids," Wilson said. "Then they'd have the opportunity to meet in small groups or a larger group, where we have our counselors and social workers team with outside people, such as Mosaic Counseling."

"We kind of had that same setup for this situation - we just had to figure out who those kids were without teachers seeing them. ... Michelle shared a list of kids she was most concerned with, and some of our kids reached out to their teachers saying that Pierce was a friend of theirs and that they were struggling."

Pierce was a quiet young man, but Wilson said his im-

pact was felt in all corners of the school.

"Pierce cast a large net," she said. "He had friends in all walks of our building and all walks of our community because of who he was. He was a very kind soul."

Michigan's stay-home order has been hard on everyone, but Wilson worries specifically about teenagers who are missing out on so much, both socially and educationally.

"One thing we need to remember is, we're living in a crisis," she said. "As adults, we're better equipped to handle it. In kids, their pre-frontal cortex is not fully developed, yet were asking them to handle this situation and carry on with other parts of their life as if nothing is different."

"My honest opinion is, I think kids are struggling."

His happy place

There was one place Pierce was truly happy, and that was zooming down a hill, his feet strapped to his snowboard.

Marty passed his love of snowboarding onto Pierce, who picked up the sport when he was in first grade.

He spent countless hours at the Ski Bowl at Mulligan's Hollow Park in Grand Haven, honing his craft. His love for the sport was infectious. He could often be found teaching others, encouraging them, building them up and helping them succeed.

"He lived at Mulligan's Hollow," Marty said. "It's such an awesome resource for this community."

A few years ago, during a Big Air competition, Pierce - already well known for his gravity-defying stunts on the snowboard - spent much of his time at the top of the hill, encouraging others as they got ready for their runs.

"That's how he rolled," Marty said. "That's the way he was."

Pierce began snowboarding competitively in the United States Amateur Snowboarding Association (USASA), and steadily moved up the rankings in the Slopestyle competition. Slopestyle competitions require a snowboarder to tackle a course consisting of obstacles such

as rails, jumps, and other park features. Points are scored for originality, amplitude, and the execution of the tricks.

Last summer, Pierce was invited to attend a competition in France, and another in Montreal. He was noticed by coaches from the American Snowboard Training Center, and offered a scholarship to attend that academy, located in the Green Mountains of southern Vermont.

One hurdle to attending the academy was figuring out whether Pierce's classes taken at Grand Haven High School would transfer. Michelle wasn't optimistic, but school officials went out of their way, she said, to help make it possible.

At the ASTC, Pierce and other students snowboarded from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day, then attended classes until 6:30 p.m.

"Then they'd come home, eat, work on homework, and relax," Michelle said. "On the weekends, they had competition. It was great for him, with 14 other kids in a dorm, snowboarding every day."

"He was in his happy place out there," Marty said.

Advice to others

Pierce's family has spent the past two weeks questioning every move they've made over

the past few years, trying to figure out if there's something else they could have done to help their son.

"I've gone through that in my head - could we have done something different?" Michelle said. "Every time I think that, and my heart starts to squeeze, I can feel Pierce hugging on me. He always told me, 'you guys are great parents.'"

"We had a very open relationship. We were really open about everything, I don't know what else we could do."

Marty encouraged anyone struggling with depression to talk to someone.

"There's somebody else who's hurting the same way you are," he said.

"Pierce was adamant, he thought he was alone, and when he realized he wasn't, it was just such a relief to him," Michelle said. "Then something that day just snapped. We don't know what."

"I don't think he realized how much he meant to everybody. There were so many kids who have called, texted, or found me on messenger and said, 'I just need for you to know that I had some problems at one point, and Pierce helped me.'"

"If we can help one kid, we want them to know, they're not alone," Betty Pierce said.



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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
The City of Wabash received funding from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) COVID-19 Response Program. This program is funded by Title I of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for an economic recovery project that will include the following activities: Grants to businesses within the City limits. The total amount of CDBG funds awarded is \$250,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income persons is \$127,500. The City of Wabash will hold a public hearing on Friday, May 22, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at 214 S. Wabash St., Wabash, Indiana, to provide citizens an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federally funded CDBG project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Keith Gillenwater, 214 S. Wabash St., Wabash, IN 46992, (260) 350-3454, no later than May 19, 2020. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons. Also, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic public meetings can be attended electronically. If you would like to attend online, please contact Keith Gillenwater at (260) 350-3454 to obtain login information for the public hearing. Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of Monday May 11, 2020 at the Wabash City Hall, 202 South Wabash Street, Wabash, IN 46992 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to Keith Gillenwater at the Grow Wabash County offices, no later than May 19, 2020 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the City of Wabash and is also available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Keith Gillenwater at (260) 350-3454, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. HSPAXLP.05/09/2020

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Legals

STATE OF INDIANA, COUNTY OF WABASH Wabash County. Indiana IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA CAUSE NUMBER: 85C01 -2004-ES-000033 IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPERVISED ESTATE OF: WILLIAM C. RAGER, DECEASED NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA.

In the matter of the Estate of William C. Rager, deceased. Cause Number 85C01 -2004-ES-33. Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd-day of April, 2020, Rebecca Hiday, was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate Of William C. Rager, deceased, Who died On the 25th day of March, 2020. All persons Who have claims against this estate, whether Or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk Of this court Within three (3) months from the date Of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Wabash County, Indiana, this 23rd day of April, 2020.

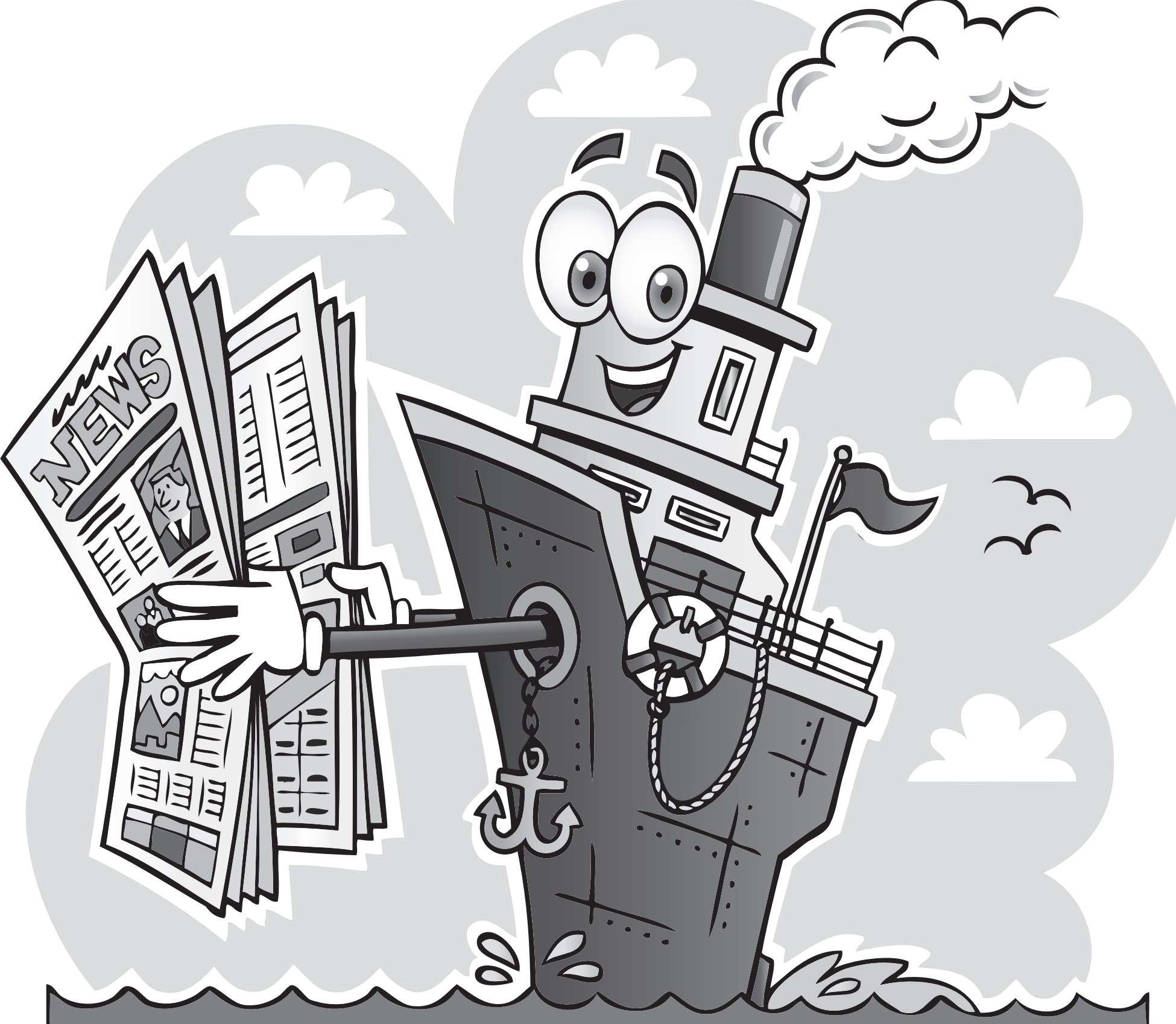
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COVID-19-related community resources

STAFF REPORT SCAN receives additional assistance to help families

Stop Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) has received additional funds from the Department of Child Services (DCS) to assist families with their basic needs in 16 northern Indiana counties, including Wabash County. SCAN and its Community Partners Local Prevention Dollars Program have announced the launch of the COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund. Nonprofits funding basic needs are invited to apply for SCAN's COVID-19 Response RFP at <https://www.scaninc.org/ncp/rfp/covid19>. Parents and caregivers in need of additional support are encouraged to call SCAN at 800-752-7116 or submit a request at <https://www.scaninc.org/ncp/referral>.

Community Foundation establishes COVID-19 assistance program

Eligible individuals who may apply for assistance grants are individuals who have lost their jobs, income or wages related to COVID-19 business closures and layoffs, and have no other significant source of income; and are still working and need to provide for childcare (ages 0 to 12) due to school and daycare closures, and have no other significant source of income. Wabash County citizens who meet the above criteria can request applications for assistance by contacting the Community

Foundation COVID-19 Assistance Program Partners who serve as applicant sponsors including REACH, WAMA or their respective township trustee. To assist, visit www.cfwabash.org or mail a check to 105 W. Second St., Suite 100, North Manchester, IN 46962, with the COVID-19 Assistance Program in the memo line. For more information, email patty@cfwabash.org or melissa@cfwabash.org or call 260-982-4824. If you are unsure of your township, visit www.stats.indiana.edu/map_tools/townships.asp to view the map of Wabash County. For more information on the Township Trustees, visit the County Departments tab on the Wabash County Government website at <http://wabashcounty.in.gov/cgi.exe>.

Parkview Wabash partners with volunteers to produce PPE

The mask-making kits may be picked up from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 3718 New Vision Drive, located on the Parkview Regional Medical Center campus in Fort Wayne. Volunteers should turn on to New Vision Drive from Diebold Road. Signs will be posted to indicate where you can drive up to easily receive the kits without leaving your vehicle. All completed masks can be returned to the Fort Wayne location or to your local Parkview community hospital.

Living Well in Wabash County offers food, transportation, support

The Friendly Caller Pro-

gram may be reached by calling 260-563-4475 to request a daily call to check in on you during this time when seniors will be home more than usual. Living Well in Wabash County will now pick up and deliver pre-paid groceries and essentials within Wabash County. For more information or to request special delivery call 260-563-7536. The service is based upon availability. This temporary delivery service is free to adults age 60 and older; normal one-way transit fees apply for 59 and under. Until further notice, the county-wide transit system for all ages is operating for essential travel only which is work, food, pharmacy and pre-scheduled medical within Wabash County. The hours of operation for the system are from 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those wanting to schedule a ride or delivery should call dispatch from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 260-563-536 or toll-free at 888-498-4400. The deadline to schedule next day transit rides is 4 p.m. Adults age 60 and older ride Wabash County Transit by donation. Riders age 59 and younger pay \$2 per one way trip in Wabash and North Manchester with rides anywhere else in Wabash County at \$4 per one way trip. Low-income households can apply for the Share the Fare program.

Second Harvest Food Bank seeks volunteers, donations

Those who are interested in volunteering may contact Kellie Arrowood, volunteer coordinator for Second Harvest, by calling the office at 765-287-8698, emailing karrowood@curehunger.org or visiting www.CureHunger.org.

Crouch, FSSA accepting 2020 Golden Hoosier Award nominations

STAFF REPORT

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, in collaboration with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's (FSSA's) Division of Aging, has announced that nominations are now being accepted for the 2020 Golden Hoosier award, according to Sara Broadwater, communications director.

"Every year it amazes me how many thoughtful and selfless Hoosiers we have in our state," stated Crouch. The

Requirement


The nominee must be resident aged 65 or older who volunteered for the past three years.

best thing about Indiana are her people, men and women who often look to their neighbors and find ways to offer a helping hand. I look forward to honoring these Golden Hoosiers for their service to their communities later this year." Crouch stated that the award

began in 2008 and annually honors older Hoosiers for their lifetime of service and commitment to their communities.

To be eligible for the Golden Hoosier Award, the nominee must currently be an Indiana resident, aged 65 or older and have been a volunteer in the community for the past three years.

The deadline for submitting applications is June 30, and you can access the electronic nomination form by visiting <https://www.in.gov/lg/2532.htm>.



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